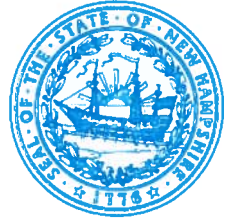




The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**

**Clark B. Freise, Assistant Commissioner**



January 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard Barry, Chair  
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 344 relative to access for low income ratepayers to renewable energy incentives and benefits

Dear Chair Barry and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 344, relative to access for low income ratepayers to renewable energy incentives and benefits. House Bill 344 would amend RSA 374 by inserting after section 61 a new section requiring the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish a program of renewable energy incentives and benefits for low income ratepayers. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

RSA 125-O:23, III(a) requires a certain percentage of the Energy Efficiency Fund to fund the low-income core energy efficiency program. Similarly, this bill would presumably require some portion of the Renewable Energy Fund to fund a low-income renewable energy program. Incentivizing additional renewable energy is a worthy goal, as described in RSA 362-F:1 as follows:

*"Renewable energy generation technologies can provide fuel diversity to the state and New England generation supply through use of local renewable fuels and resources that serve to displace and thereby lower regional dependence on fossil fuels. This has the potential to lower and stabilize future energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices. The use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy. In addition, employing low emission forms of such technologies can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter emissions transported into New Hampshire and also generated in the state, thereby improving air quality and public health, and mitigating against the risks of climate change. It is therefore in the public interest to stimulate investment in low emission renewable energy generation technologies in New England and, in particular, New Hampshire, whether at new or existing facilities."*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 344. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Craig Wright, Director of the Air Resources Division ([craig.wright@des.nh.gov](mailto:craig.wright@des.nh.gov), 271-1088) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director ([michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov), 271-6390).

Sincerely,



Clark B. Freise  
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Sponsor of HB 344: Rep. Danielson